

Executive

20 March 1950

Deputy Executive

Space

1. As directed by you I attended a meeting of the National Capitol Park and Planning Commission held specifically for further hearing of our [redacted] space needs at 1350 hours on 17 March. Present at the meeting were:

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2. Our case was presented, emphasizing the following points:

a. FBI has exhausted its capability to furnish us government space.

b. Leasing is becoming an almost impossible problem, in addition to being excessively costly.

c. We must be in the same area with the President, [redacted] and other important officials whom we serve, and the activities with which we must coordinate.

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d. Unless we curtail our service, particularly scientific, at this most critical time when we need to further expand to meet our responsibilities, we must have a minimum amount of additional space within the next six months.

e. We should keep the activities now in [redacted] Buildings all in one location for constant daily mutual support purposes.

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3. Each member of the Commission had comments and questions. The unanimous Commission reaction appeared to me as stated below:

a. They realize the importance and necessity of our mission, and that our location is not subject to arbitrary determination.

b. They understand and are in sympathy with our need for more space. In fact, they feel that we are not asking for enough to meet possible future needs for still further expansion which we cannot now foresee.

c. They feel that our occupation of temporary buildings is a great security hazard, particularly from the possibility of fire.

d. They do not desire to authorize further temporary construction for us, but do desire to provide adequate suitable space.

e. Alternatives discussed were:

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(1) Clearing the temporary buildings now assigned to Navy in the Potomac basin (in the vicinity [redacted] and assigning this space to CIA. 25X1A

(2) Possibility of moving the Public Health Service out of Washington and assigning the Railroad Retirement Building to CIA.

(3) Possibility of obtaining Presidential direction to move some other activity now occupying permanent construction in Washington and assigning that space to CIA.

(4) As a longer range matter, to recommend and support the obtaining of authority to construct a new building for all of CIA somewhere on the perimeter of the Greater Washington area. In connection with this they recommend that the Director discuss the desirability of such construction with the Bureau of the Budget and the President.

4. It was pointed out to me throughout the meeting that the Commission felt very strongly its large policy responsibility to hold the line on new construction of any kind in the Washington area pending the formulation and approval of a realistic decentralization plan for government activities. They were to discuss this matter in a meeting to be held immediately after our hearing with representatives of the NCBB. Our specific problem is also to be discussed at that meeting.

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5. Mr. [redacted] secretary of the Commission, is to call me subsequent to the meeting with NCBB and inform me of the decision of the Commission.

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Copies to:

Chief, Admin. Staff
Management Officer
Budget Officer
General Counsel